

simplify burdensome regulations under IDEA and for Congress to adopt statutory changes that would provide relief to the nation's special education and general education teachers who dedicate their careers to educating children with special needs.

The goal of this Committee is to ensure that all students receive a quality education. Currently, teachers are forced to spend too much time on an overwhelming paperwork burden and not enough time on important needs, like lesson plans and parent-teacher conferences. This bill will help teachers move beyond simply having enough time to comply with regulations and allow them to focus on what is really important, reach achievement for our students with special needs. The current paperwork structure provides a real threat to ensuring that the maximum available resources are focused on a quality education for students with special needs.

Currently, there's a growing shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in special education. Special education teachers are being driven out of the profession in frustration over the seemingly endless stream of red tape and paperwork associated with IDEA. This year, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act into law. NCLB requires that all children with special needs who attend federally funded schools have the opportunity to learn from a highly qualified special education teacher. States must submit a plan to ensure all special education teachers are highly qualified by the end of the 2005–2006 school year. We must do all we can to ensure that every child with special needs is receiving a quality education.

In our hearings, the Committee heard from school principals, administrators, and others voicing frustrations with their schools' efforts to provide services to students as required by their individualized education programs (IEPs) when paperwork requirements compete with available instructional time. In Fairfax County, Virginia, for example, professionals spend on average 83.5 hours on paperwork for a student who qualifies for service under IDEA, from initial referral to development of the IEP—all this before a student even starts to receive services under IDEA. As one principal testified at a hearing earlier this year, "teachers find themselves between a rock and a hard place . . . with unyielding demands made on their time. When something gives, the impact is either on the teacher or the student, two of our most valuable resources."

According to the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), "too often in special education practice, compliance-related documentation is stressed over thoughtful decision-making for children and youth and their families. No barrier to delivering quality services is more problematic to special educators than paperwork." CEC estimates that 4 hours of pre-meeting time is needed for review and revision of the average IEP going into each IEP meeting. In addition, CEC reports that a majority of special educators estimate that they spend a day or more each week on paperwork, and eighty-three percent report spending from half to one-and-a-half days per week in IEP-related meetings.

Teacher quality is perhaps the most important factor in ensuring the progress of students with special needs. We're asking a lot of America's special education teachers, and they deserve our full support. That's why Representative KELLER's bill is so important.

Representative KELLER's proposed amendments to IDEA will help bring good teachers to classrooms by identifying and simplifying burdensome statutory provisions in IDEA, and it will do so while preserving the quality of education provided to children with special needs. They are innovative, provide much-needed flexibility to the nation's special education system, and will be, I believe, non-controversial in nature.

This legislation streamlines and increases the effectiveness of many provisions within IDEA. It directs the Secretary of Education to identify, develop, and disseminate model forms for individualized education programs (IEPs), procedural safeguard notices, and prior written notice report requirements that incorporate all relevant federal statutory and regulatory requirements under IDEA. In addition, the legislation allows states that receive funds under Part B of IDEA to permit local educational agencies in each state to develop a three-year IEP (in lieu of an annual IEP) for each child with a disability. Representative KELLER's bill would also create a pilot program allowing the Secretary to waive paperwork requirements under IDEA to 10 states based on their proposals for reducing paperwork and non-classroom time spent fulfilling statutory and regulatory requirements. These initiatives, and others in the bill, will promote innovation and provide much-needed flexibility for states as they implement IDEA and its accompanying federal, state, and local regulations.

The IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002 will take us one step closer to reducing burdensome rules under IDEA and allowing teachers and administrators the time to do their job of educating children with special needs more efficiently and effectively. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S 2002 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advocacy of H. Res. 569, legislation expressing support for the President's 2002 National Drug Control Strategy to reduce illegal drug use in the United States.

Nearly 20,000 Americans, many of them children, die from drug related incidences every year. This ongoing drug menace is the gravest threat to our youth whether they are killed by drug overdoses or are caught in the crossfire of rival drug gangs.

When some claim that Iraq poses the most imminent threat to our national security, I see a more imminent threat in the well-established link between the profits from illegal drug dealing and the financing of many of the world's leading terrorist organizations. These organizations include the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia.

It is because of these threats that I am proud of the efforts of law enforcement in the eradication of illegal drug use. In supporting this bill we honor the efforts of those who fight on the front lines of the Nation's struggle

against illegal drug use. The drug menace is truly a threat to our homeland security.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIFE OF DR. ROBERTO CRUZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the achievements and life of Dr. Roberto Cruz, founder and first President of the National Hispanic University (NHU) in San Jose, California. I am proud to have known Dr. Cruz for over 20 years, and have seen first hand tireless work to establish and expand NHU, one of only three Hispanic universities in the nation, and the only one west of Chicago.

Born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Cruz received his bachelor's degree from Wichita State University in 1964 thanks to a football scholarship. A star middle linebacker and center, Dr. Cruz passed on opportunities to play football professionally in order to teach junior high school in Stockton California.

Seeing the need to improve the educational system, he went on to earn his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in 1971. That same year, he established the Bay Area Bilingual Education League (BABEL), a consortium of schools and educational institutions developing bilingual education for students in Oakland and Berkeley. By 1976 he was an education professor at Stanford University, where he was appalled at how few Latinos enrolled at colleges.

In 1981, Dr. Cruz and a group of loyal supporters established The National Hispanic University in a two-room building in Oakland, California. The goal was to address the learning needs of Hispanics and other minorities, especially non-native English speakers. Over the last 20 years, he has built NHU into a quality, accredited, private four-year university for all.

In the few weeks before he passed away on September 4, San Jose's planning commission approved his ambitious proposal to transform the private college, housed in an old elementary school, into a three-story, \$18 million full-fledged university campus.

A few weeks earlier, NHU made history by becoming the first Hispanic four-year university to be accredited by the prestigious Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), an organization that only accredits 155 colleges and universities from among 3,000 institutions in the region. With this accreditation NHU joins Stanford and the University of California as a nationally and regionally accredited and recognized institution.

Dr. Roberto Cruz left us a legacy of young people who have a future because, through the power of education, he let them have one. He proved that *Si se puede!*

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON ITS NATIONAL DAY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian, Vice

President Annette Lu, and the People of Taiwan on Taiwan's National Day. Since escaping the clutches of Communist China in 1949, the people of Taiwan have made great strides economically, politically, and socially. Taiwan has become a bastion of democracy and an economic power in East Asia. They have made this progress because they have committed themselves to building the institutions that are so important to democracy and the preservation of freedom. They have also liberalized their economy, conformed to the standards of international business, and earlier this year, gained acceptance into the World Trade Organization. They should be commended for proving to the world that democracy, free market economics, and hard work are the keys to success in today's world.

But Mr. Speaker, we should not recognize Taiwan's achievements without also thanking them for their partnership in containing China's expansionist tendencies. For over fifty years the Taiwanese have stared down China's threats of invasion and annexation, choosing instead to build a modern, free society and, most importantly, choosing to be our friend. They have played a key role in containing the specter of Communism in East Asia. We should never forget that. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Taiwan on their day of national celebration and I congratulate them on all they have achieved.

THE POLLY KLAAS FOUNDATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Polly Klaas was a vibrant, talented child, full of life with the promise of a bright future. When she was kidnapped at knifepoint from her bedroom slumber party on October 1, 1993, in my hometown Petaluma, California, our community responded with an unprecedented effort to find her. The Polly Klaas Foundation was formed October 23, 1993, to help continue that search for Polly.

Following the discovery of her murderer, the Foundation adopted a new mission: "Make America Safe For Children." As part of their efforts, they've been working hard at the state level to enact Amber Alert plans. Amber Alerts empower the community to take action—immediately. From Southern California to St. Louis to Philadelphia, the recent wave of child abductions has kept our nation riveted, angry, and scared for the safety of our children. The Amber Alert Plan is a voluntary cooperative program between law enforcement agencies and local broadcasters that sends emergency alerts to the public when a child has been abducted. Amber Alerts leap into action in the first crucial hours of a kidnapping when the tracks left by the abductor are still fresh. Like a modern day, high-speed Paul Revere, Amber Alerts spread the word fast so we don't have to rely on slower methods like handing out flyers, or word of mouth for news of the abduction to catch on from one city to the next.

Just two months ago, only 14 states had statewide Amber Alerts. Now, thanks in part to the Polly Klaas Foundation, 28 states have statewide Amber Alerts. However, our work is far from done.

We must continue to work towards a national network for Amber Alerts so that law enforcement can use Amber Alerts across state lines. The Senate passed an excellent bill in September that would do just that. The House Judiciary Committee had a chance to pass that bill, H.R. 5326, on the House floor yesterday.

Instead, they unfortunately chose to pass H.R. 5422, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. While this bill contained the non-controversial Amber Alert provisions, it also contained far more controversial provisions concerning death penalties, mandatory minimum sentences, wiretap extensions, pre-trial release, and a whole host of other unrelated provisions which will impede this bill's chance of final passage in the Senate. It was a poor decision by the House leadership that will doom the Senate's good work.

At the White House Conference on Missing and Exploited Children last week, President Bush announced that the Justice Department would develop a national standard for the Amber Alert, and named a new Amber Alert coordinator at the Justice Department who will work on increasing cooperation among state and local plans. Congress must pass legislation to give the new coordinator the legal authority; funding and programmatic guidelines needed to effectively perform his duties and help to protect our children.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of AMBER Alert legislation. The statistics and the facts are clear: Amber Alerts are already being credited with saving the lives of 31 children around the country. But the real people, the real stories, the real lives saved are far more convincing than any statistic. Just look in the eyes of the parents of the two Riverside, California teenagers whose lives were saved because of the Amber Alert, and you will know why this law is so important.

I am proud of the Polly Klaas Foundation and would like to thank the foundation for all of the hard work they have been doing to enact Amber Alert programs.

Mr. Speaker, we still have time in this legislative session to bring the Senate bill to the House floor, and we should do just that. Every day that a national Amber Alert system is not in place, is another day that law enforcement and the public have inadequate tools and resources needed to protect our children.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. "CHUCK" YEAGER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager. I congratulate him on his pioneering work in the field of aeronautics and thank him for his many contributions to our country over the past 60 years.

Brig. Gen. Yeager became the first man to ever break the sound barrier on October 14, 1947. This feat was accomplished in the experimental Bell X-1, called "Glamorous Glennis," which is now on display at the Smithsonian Institution. He was able to successfully pilot his aircraft above the speed of

sound, thereby proving the feasibility of manned supersonic flight. General Yeager also set another aviation record six years later by flying to Mach 2.44 in the X-1A. He continued to test experimental aircraft at Muroc Air Force Base (now Edwards Air Force Base) until 1954. These noteworthy acts, as well as his testing of hundreds of different aircraft during his career, are well worth our praise and accolades.

Brig. Gen. Yeager not only set records, but he also helped establish a unique program at Edwards Air Force Base to train military test pilots as astronauts. In 1962, he was selected as the commandant of the new U.S. Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School (now the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School), serving at this post until 1966. Despite his retirement from the military in March of 1975, Brig. Gen. Yeager has continued to fly in the annual Edwards Air Force Base Open House and Air Show and serve the U.S. Air Force as a flight test consultant. He will be taking to the skies again this year for the show, just like he always has, in what will be his last flight as pilot of an Air Force aircraft.

In addition to his accomplishments as a test pilot and mentor, he is also a decorated combat veteran. After being shot down during World War II over occupied France on his eighth mission, he returned to fly 56 more combat missions and total 12.5 aerial victories. His heroics in WWII, his achievements in flight testing, and his service as a combat commander during the Vietnam War earned him a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a special peacetime Medal of Honor. On the occasion of Brig. Gen. Yeager's last military flight, I ask that you join me in saluting one of our nation's greatest aviation pioneers.

HONORING THE RATIFICATION OF "THE U.S.-CYPRUS MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY"

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize a new step in American-Cypriot relations. On September 18, 2002, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus ratified "The U.S.-Cyprus Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty" bringing these two nations even closer together to fight the war on terrorism.

This Treaty provides for many provisions that will fight not just global terrorism, but also organized crime and drug trafficking. In particular, the Treaty will allow the two countries to more effectively coordinate the transfer of persons in custody, execute searches and seizures, share documents and intelligence materials, identify persons of interest to authorities, and prosecute a wide range of criminal offenses.

The PATRIOT Act, which I worked hard to advance and was passed into law late last year, complements this treaty well. The PATRIOT Act facilitates cooperation between the United States and foreign governments in the areas of information and intelligence sharing. With this Treaty now ratified and the PATRIOT Act made into law, the U.S. and Cyprus are in an excellent position to put an end to the evil and cowardly actions of terrorists everywhere.